

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

POLISH-GEORGIAN CREDIT UNION PARTNERSHIP

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and bring to my colleague's attention a movement that is currently underway in the nation of Poland. This action is designed to help bring about the creation and development of credit unions to benefit the citizens of Poland.

I understand that the Georgia Credit Union Affiliates, in an unparalleled partnership with the Polish National Association of Cooperative Savings and Credit Unions, have entered into an agreement in which Georgia-based credit unions with provide assistance in the development and implementation of new credit union services and products for the benefit of Polish credit union members.

It has long been understood that the benefits of credit unions help facilitate savings and investment, providing capital for new businesses and strengthening the economy. As we are all aware, savings and investments are the key to a country's long term well being, and I hope this new and unique partnership will lead to a strong economy for Poland and its citizens.

I commend the efforts of the Polish people to build and strengthen their private financial institutions, efforts which I hope will continue for many generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO NORTHERN TELECOM

HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 1996

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an important corporate citizen in my district. Northern Telecom [Nortel], a telecommunications equipment manufacturer, recently received the first annual Corporate Citizenship Award from the Committee on Economic Development.

Nortel received this prestigious award in recognition of the principles and values the company has held throughout the 100 years it has been in business. Not only do they invest in research and development, in customer satisfaction, in the training and education of their work force, in the quality of their management and in their overall business performance, but also they believe in a strong and ongoing commitment to education, support for arts and culture, and support for nonprofit community service organizations. In the Raleigh-Durham area, Nortel has about 9,000 employees. The company and the employees contributed funds and time to community organizations such as the North Carolina Business Committee for Education and the Health Care Information

and Communications Alliance, a collaboration between business and hospitals to develop a statewide health care information and communications system. With Nortel's encouragement and support, employees also contribute time to Habitat for Humanity, the National Council on Aging, Special Olympics and the North Carolina Symphony and the United Arts Council of Durham and Wake Counties.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nortel and their employees on receiving this most deserved award.

VIOLENCE IN SLOVAKIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am alarmed by recent violence in Slovakia that may be part of a larger pattern of politically motivated violence. During the weekend of May 4-5, a device that may have been a handgrenade exploded in front of the home of Bela Bugar. Mr. Bugar is not only a member of the Hungarian minority's opposition coalition, he is also, according to opinion polls, its most popular member. Shortly before that incident, Robert Remias, a former policeman who has been questioned in connection with the kidnaping of President Michal Kovac's son last year, died when his propane-fueled BMW exploded.

Although it is not yet certain who is responsible for these acts, it is clear that violence coincides with politics in Slovakia at a suspiciously high rate. I also recall, for example, that Frantisek Miklosko, the opposition leader of the Christian Democratic Movement, was assaulted by unknown attackers near his home last August; Peter Toth, a journalist investigating the Kovac case, has also been assaulted; last April, a bomb went off in the car of Arpad Matejka, a member of the Prime Minister's party.

The Helsinki Commission, which I chair, is no stranger to Slovakia. We were a close observer of developments there well before the breakup of the Czechoslovak Federation in 1992 and have issued two major reports on that country. Since last summer, I have been joined twice by Senator ALFONSE D'AMATO, the Commissions' cochairman, and the Commission's ranking minority members, Representative STENY H. HOYER and Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG, in sending letters to Slovak Ambassador Lichardus regarding continuing challenges to the democratization process in his country.

Although the Commission has raised a number of serious concerns in these letters, we have, remained generally optimistic about developments in Slovakia. Last week, for example, I hosted a conference in New Jersey on business opportunities in Central Europe, where I discussed some of the positive economic changes in Slovakia that are creating

new opportunities for Slovak society as a whole. I appreciate the willingness of the Slovak Parliament to consider the views of a number of international interlocutors regarding draft legislation and note the active and constructive role of the President and the Constitutional Court in guiding the passage of legislation consistent with democratic values and human rights norms. I commend Prime Minister Meciar for his decision last week to seek, in his words, a wider democratic discussion of the draft law on the protection of the Republic. Most of all, I have been greatly heartened by the increasing involvement of Slovak citizens in all areas of public life.

The message sent by the most recent developments in Slovakia, therefore, is all the more discouraging. And that message is dangerous: take on a high political profile, and you are possibly a more visible—and more likely—target of violence.

I welcome the May 9 statement of the Government of Slovakia condemning acts of violence and promising a thorough investigation of these matters. I believe it is particularly important that the death of Robert Remias be examined in an open and transparent manner, in a manner that makes information available to all those concerned with this case, and in a manner that will foster credibility in its results.

Mr. Speaker, the Helsinki Commission will continue to follow closely developments in this case, and I expect to report further to this body as information becomes available.

TRIBUTE TO DR. STANLEY MARTIN HANFLING

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sadness at the passing of Dr. Stanley Martin Hanfling, a long-time close friend and a prominent physician from Hillsborough, CA, in my congressional district. Dr. Hanfling dedicated his life to healing, to the advancement of medicine and to improving the health knowledge of our Nation as a whole. I wish to express my most heartfelt gratitude for his many years of friendship and service to the community. My sincerest condolences to his wonderful wife, Cecilia, his sister, Ruth Samuels, his cousin, Irma Leon, his two nephews, a niece, and a multitude of friends and patients.

The San Francisco Peninsula will sorely miss the intelligence and expertise of this excellent physician. Until shortly before his death, Dr. Hanfling practiced internal medicine at his San Mateo office. He was on the staff at Peninsula, Mills, Sequoia, and San Mateo County hospitals. He dedicated many hours of his valuable time at several free clinics and taught health education classes at the College of San Mateo. These varied and extremely important posts which Dr. Hanfling held throughout his career made him an integral part of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

health care for people of all backgrounds and needs on the San Francisco Peninsula.

Shortly after completing his medical training, Dr. Hanfling served his country with distinction as a captain in the U.S. Army at Valley Forge Army Hospital in Phoenixville, PA, during 1956 to 1958. While pursuing his demanding career, he remained active in the Army Reserve Medical Corps from 1958 to 1966.

Dr. Hanfling was not only committed to serving all who sought his expertise through a hospital, doctor's office or free clinic, he was also committed to improving the health of his community through education. Dr. Hanfling hosted and produced 26 half-hour educational programs, part of a series entitled "Medical Update" which was broadcast on KCSM-TV in San Mateo. These programs addressed a wide range of subjects, including coronary artery disease, birth control, exercise and health, health policy, cancer, and venereal disease. These far-reaching programs earned Dr. Hanfling an award from the American Medical Association for educational TV and radio programs.

Music was Dr. Hanfling's passion outside of medicine. Here, too, he sought to share his enjoyment of music with the community and promote the talents of local musicians. For two decades he opened his home to musicians and guests for an extensive series of chamber music and recitals that were regularly attended by friends, acquaintances and patients. Dr. Hanfling also sponsored the careers of several promising local musicians, including the up-and-coming Aurora String Quartet.

Mr. Speaker, as we say goodbye to Dr. Hanfling, we are reminded of the difference one dedicated individual can make through his professional and extracurricular pursuits. I consider myself extremely fortunate to be among the many individuals who benefited from his wisdom and kindness. Stanley, we all send you our love and appreciation.

FOLLOW-ON FORCE IN BOSNIA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, during a hearing in the International Relations Committee last month on the situation in Bosnia, Under Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff was asked to address the important issue of what will happen in Bosnia after the NATO-led peace implementation force, IFOR, is withdrawn, starting after the planned Bosnian elections, scheduled for mid-September of this year.

Following the hearing I requested Under Secretary Tarnoff to respond in more detail, in writing, about the status of planning for a possible follow-on force in Bosnia. In his letter the Under Secretary emphasizes that "The administration remains committed to completing IFOR's mission in approximately 1 year." He also stresses that "the completion of IFOR's mission will not mean the end of the international community's efforts to support peace and economic reconstruction in Bosnia. The United States will continue to assist in these important international efforts."

I am inserting the full text of Under Secretary Tarnoff's letter in the RECORD so that Members of Congress can better understand

the administration's approach to the critical issue of the timing of the withdrawal of IFOR and the planning for a possible follow-on force.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, May 15, 1996.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
U.S. House of Representatives.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON: Under Secretary Tarnoff has requested that I respond to your letter of April 25, in which you asked about the status of planning for a follow-on force in Bosnia.

From the beginning of his Administration the President made clear that he was prepared to support the deployment of U.S. forces in conjunction with a peace agreement in Bosnia. Following the successful negotiation of the Dayton accords, the President indicated his intention to deploy approximately 20,000 U.S. ground troops as part of the NATO-led IFOR. The Dayton Accords, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1031 authorizing IFOR, and the NATO Operational Plan governing IFOR's deployment set forth a duration of "approximately one year" or "about 12 months". As the President stated in his November 27, 1995, address to the nation, "Our Joint Chiefs of Staff have concluded that this mission should and will take about one year." The President subsequently wrote to House Speaker Gingrich on December 21, saying, "And I expect, that the military mission can be accomplished in about a year." This has been—and remains—Administration policy.

On April 30, the President approved an approach regarding the drawdown of troops in Bosnia consistent with previous Administration and NATO policy. Specifically, it recognized that IFOR will play a crucial role in providing security for upcoming Bosnian elections, which, according to the Dayton Agreement, are to be held by mid-September. To that end, IFOR should remain at full strength through the Bosnian elections. The pace and extent of the drawdown in the period between the Bosnian elections and the conclusion of IFOR's mandate on December 20 will be determined by General Joulwan and other senior NATO military officials, in consultation with NATO's North Atlantic Council.

IFOR should retain until December 20, 1996 sufficient forces to accomplish its full mission and protect the lives of its personnel including U.S. troops. This approach will mean that IFOR would complete its drawdown in the weeks after December 20, on a schedule and in a manner consistent with logistical requirements and the safety of our troops.

The Administration remains committed to completing IFOR's mission in approximately one year. It was with this in mind and in the context of discussions of the presence of the IPTF or others in a post-IFOR environment in which Under Secretary Tarnoff stated that "we are not contemplating any organized military force."

In the referenced New York Times piece, Secretary Perry noted, "As we get nearer that December date we're going to have to take a look and say, 'What is the likelihood of a war starting up again?' If we conclude that there's a danger, then the question that NATO will have to answer is what kind of force deployment do we need to provide an adequate deterrence for that not happening." It is only prudent that this Administration and NATO should review, as we approach fall, the specific security situation in Bosnia. However, neither this Administration nor NATO is planning at this time to deploy a follow-on force in Bosnia.

Of course, the completion of IFOR's mission will not mean the end of the international community's efforts to support

peace and economic reconstruction in Bosnia. Numerous tasks will continue, including the return of refugees and displaced persons, arms control and military stabilization, removal of land mines, investigations by the International Criminal Tribunal, and the mending of civil, political, and economic institutions damaged or destroyed by the war. The United States will continue to assist in these important international efforts.

Thank you for forwarding your concerns with respect to these important issues. I hope you have found this helpful.

Sincerely,

BARBARA LARKIN,
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Legislative Affairs.

COMMONSENSE PRODUCT LIABILITY REFORM ACT OF 1996—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. 104-207)

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PAXON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, the long overdue reforms contained in H.R. 956 will restore fairness and efficiency to our Nation's legal system, by instituting a series of modest reforms to our Nation's product liability laws.

A majority of Americans believe that our Nation's legal system is out of control and is in need of serious reform. As our courts become clogged with frivolous lawsuits, those Americans who have been truly injured must wait months, sometimes years, for their cases to be heard.

Our current legal system actually denies justice to those Americans who need it most. This legislation will put justice back in our justice system.

I have been a strong supporter of H.R. 956 since it was first considered in the House Commerce Committee, on which I serve.

Should this override attempt be unsuccessful, I am confident that next year Congress will consider and approve not only product liability reform legislation, but comprehensive reform of our Nation's legal system.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KENNESAW STATE COLLEGE MARKETING STUDENTS

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the students of the Kennesaw State College Marketing and Professional Sales Department for their hard work as part of the 1996 General Motors Marketing Internship Class in developing "Escape into Excitement Days" from May 20 to 24, 1996.

This internship has created a successful partnership between businesses and students so that young men and women gain invaluable experience in developing and implementing an actual marketing campaign.

Again, I want to commend the outstanding efforts of these hardworking, exceptionally